The Voice of the University of Toronto at Mississauga

THE MEDIUM

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Tsunami natural disaster takes its toll

UTM seeks to help five million affected by South Asian tsunamis

BY JULIE TYIOS

World-wide relief efforts are under way to aid victims of the tsunami disasters that took place in East Asia early Boxing Day, and parts of the UTM community are joining to assist in the effort.

A massive underwater earthquake measuring a shocking 9.0 on the Richter Scale, the most intense in the world since 1964, took place at 7 a.m. and shook the waters off the coast of Banda Aceh, Indonesia, sending 40-foot tsunamis crashing into the shores of countries in East Asia and parts of Africa. The waves destroyed many towns and cities along the coasts of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, Maldives and Tanzania, and also swept many of their coastal inhabitants out to sea. The current death toll caused by the tsunamis alone tops 155,000 at the present time, with the number expected to rise among those left behind as disease and famine spreads from lack of food, stagnant water and the bacteria present among the masses of dead bodies that have washed up on shore. In many cities, it is estimated that one in every four citizens is dead.

Many foreign tourists are also reported to be missing, having been at popular vacation spots on Thailand's coasts when the disaster struck. Many of these resorts have been completely demolished along with the nearby towns, leaving families of the missing searching through piles of bodies and pictures of the dead for a familiar face.

An additional 500,000 people are reportedly left injured in the wake of the tsunamis, with the first wave of relief having reached isolated areas affected

UTM continued on page 3

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow?

Photo/Denyse Gibson

Students returning to school after the holidays will notice the lack of snow on the grounds, brought about by recent spells of warm weather. Students are cautioned not to go out on to the melting ice surrounding the pond, as there is a risk of falling through on account of what seems to be an early arrival of the spring melt.

U of T Vice-President and Chief Advancement Officer resigns to accept position at Oxford U

BY JULIE TYIOS

The University of Toronto faces the loss of another administrator with the resignation of Vice-President and Chief Advancement Officer John Dellandrea; the fourth to leave the U of T within the past academic year.

Dellandrea follows in the steps of Vice-President and Provost Shirley Neuman, who resigned late last May on account of personal reasons. The U of T President Robert Birgeneau and UTM Chief Administrative Officer Paul Donoghue both resigned this academic year to accept more prestigious positions with the University of California at Berkeley and the American University in Cairo respectively.

Dellandrea has accepted a position as Pro-Vice-Chancellor Development and External Relations at the University of Oxford, with his official term to commence in October of 2005. He will remain at the U of T until June of 2005 to finish his term. While at the U of T Dellandrea oversaw fundraisers that raised money toward programs for both students and staff. He will be missed by his colleagues.

"Jon Dellandrea has served the University of Toronto with passion, intensity and enormous success in his 11 years as VP," said U of T Interim President Frank Iacobucci. "His history with U of T, as a student, staff member and most recently as vice-president and chief advancement officer, is filled with accomplishment and his dedication to the university is extraordinary. We will miss his sage advice and boundless enthusiasm."

"The University of Toronto is home for me and leaving is not easy," said Dellandrea in an official press release. "It has been an enormous privilege to serve at one of North America's premier universities. Now, this move to Oxford offers a singular opportunity to serve one of Europe's finest institutions."

This recent wave of administrative resignations has left the University of Toronto scrambling to fill the positions, which will be otherwise left vacant for the 2005/06 school year. The position of U of T President was awarded interim to Frank Iacobucci, former vice-president and provost, this past August. His term will last no longer than June 30th, 2005, after which a new president must be hired. The position of UTM Chief Administrative Officer was temporary filled by Manager of Business Services Christine Capewell, who was replaced permanently by former U of T Assistant Dean Ray DeSouza in November.

INSIDE...

Beta Band 6

Opinions & Rants 9

Memorable Sports Moments 2004 10

CCIT Club helps spread Christmas cheer at Toronto homeless shelter

BY ANDREW NGUYEN

In the charitable spirit of Christmas, the Communication, Culture, and Information Technology (CCIT) club gave back to the community by volunteering at the Mavis homeless shelter in Mississauga. The event, titled: "Project: Santa Clause", was coordinated by Social Director of the CCIT club, Jay Urbiztondo, with the aid of the rest of the CCIT executives.

On November 10th, 2004 the CCIT executive staff along with several volunteers arrived at the Mavis homeless shelter to spread some much-needed Christmas cheer. For some, it was the very first time they had done anything of the sort. For others, it was a shock to hear that Mississauga even harbored homeless people. 4th year CCIT student and volunteer Stella Rayne remarked on the event.

" I'll admit that I didn't really think about there being many homeless people in Mississauga before--when I think of homeless people in the GTA, the first place that normally comes to mind are the streets of Toronto."

At the shelter, the student responsibilities for the evening included preparing food, setting tables, and clean up. The students were split into groups and were assigned specific duties. Following the dinner, gifts were handed out in the spirit of Christmas. Donations collected from the students included clothing, canned goods, baked goods, and electronic gifts. Furthermore, the club had collected a substantial amount of funding from fellow students, professors, and family in which they used to purchase a 27-inch TV, replacing the previous broken television set of the shelter.

Amongst the donors, the Erindale College Student Union (ECSU) contributed a significant amount of $150 towards the cause. Despite the generous donations, the president of the CCIT club, Kien Quach, felt that it was the interaction with the clients that was most well received, and was what really made the difference.

"While I was there, I spoke to one of the site managers and she said that it was really nice of us to come down and help out during the holidays" said Quach. "The clothing, DVDs, CDs, and baked goods were amazing, but most important our presence there was most appreciated. Just sitting down with the clients of the shelter and talking to them made a big difference."

Many volunteers had shared the same thoughts upon the event's success. CCIT student Daniela Palombo was glad to be able to contribute to the community and thought the event was an overall achievement for both the shelter and for the club itself.

"I thought that project Santa clause was a really good experience because it was nice to be able to do something for other people" she said. "The people at the shelter were all very nice and so pleasantly surprised and grateful. It was nice to be able to talk to the people there because they were so friendly and welcoming. It was nice to see everyone from CCIT get together and do something together. I think it was a very big success. It is a wonderful gift to give to other people at Christmas. I am glad I went."

Quach also felt that contributing to Mississauga's community subsequently strengthened the CCIT club community in return.

"I thought that the event [Project Santa Claus] was a great way of bringing CCIT students together. It was also great evidence of how an online community can plan and gather online and execute offline - this is the nature of the CCIT student. This event demonstrates our growth as a club. We've grown into a club that is strong both online with our online community forum and offline with our events. CCIT Club members are a voice on campus, online and within the Mississauga community.", Kien explained.

While many acknowledged the benefits that one can reap from giving to the less fortunate, another student felt that the event provided an enlightening experience, that as human being and members of a community we should all partake in.

"The experience was, different--it definitely educated me a bit more on the city of Mississauga and its inhabitants" she reamrked. "I thoroughly enjoyed the time spent there--I feel it's absolutely essential to care and lend a helping hand whenever the opportunity arises. Volunteering helps diminish apathy. I think everyone should find a selfless project to commit to at some point in their life."

UTM Women's Centre honours victims of Montreal Massacre

BY JULIE TYIOS

On December 6th, 2004, a commemorative ceremony was held to honour the victims of the Montreal Massacre; the anniversary of the attacks against women which has come to be known as a national day of action against violence towards women.

Thirteen women were slaughtered inside Montreal's L'Ecole Polytechnique in 1988 when they were ambushed at the school by an anti-feminist gunman who sought to shoot as many women as possible during his spree. The tragedy turned into a national event, spawning memorials across the country for those who had died and those who were wounded.

This year, the UTM Women's Centre conducted their annual memorial, including a vigil for those who had died, a musical tribute, the viewing of the documentaries "After the Montreal Massacre" and "The Many Trials of One Jane Doe", and a free self-defense course for women.

"Violence towards women is happening. It's not something we see in the movies, but it's something that could be happening to your friend, your teacher, your neighbour," said Melissa Panuelos, director of the UTM Women's Centre.

Free refreshments were served following the event during a discussion on women's rights. The event takes place annually on campus to honour the victims and their families.

"The university plays an important role in nurturing minds towards a better society free of violence," said UTM Vice-President and Principal Ian Orchard. "This event is a symbol of our opposition to violence against women."

Photo courtesy of www.utm.utoronto.ca

Atendees to the December 6th memorial pay their respects to the victims.

UTM News Bits

U of T at Mississauga will enhance campus safety and better control construction traffic with its three-phase construction logistics plan, which took effect on December 15th, 2004.

The plan includes elements such as road work and proper signage to help direct pedestrians and vehicles on campus. The increasing enrolment and development on campus will see a jump in the population and such work is necessary.

"With the number of construction vehicles we will be seeing on campus, we want to make sure any disruption is as minimal and safe as possible," said Ray deSouza, UTM's Chief Advancement Officer. "Pedestrian and vehicular safety is paramount . . . we'll be providing permanent and clearly visible crosswalk signs. We will also be providing appropriate directional signage for construction vehicles entering and leaving campus."

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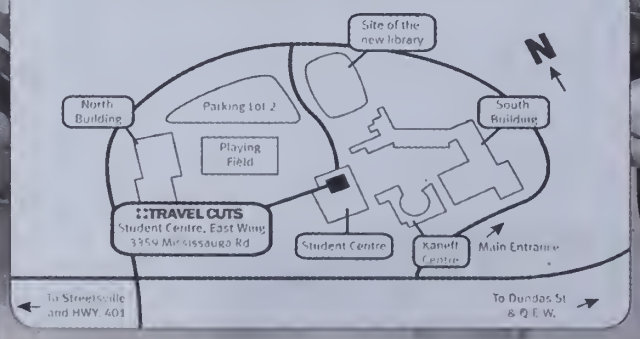

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UTM community seeks to assist in South Asia tsunami relief efforts

Continued from front

by the disaster this past weekend, a full week after the initial earthquake.

Aftershocks and tremors caused by the original earthquake have measured 5.0 on the Richter Scale, causing difficulties for rescue crews who are digging bodies out from beneath the rubble of former cities. This has also caused complications in providing the first aid and supplies necessary to the survivors of the disaster.

A worldwide effort has been started to donate food, clothing, money and other means of survival to the five million victims of the disaster who are now left homeless. Many countries have offered their assistance and have pledged money to the relief effort. The United States has agreed to pledge $350 million, ten times their original estimated amount of $35 million. Canada's government is assisting with a gift of $80 million, which is to be accompanied by millions of dollars in private donations that have been pouring in from concerned citizens.

The effect of the disaster hits close to home for some in the GTA, namely those who left family and friends behind to immigrate to the Toronto area. There is much concern expressed from UTM students as well, as their families have been personally affected by the destruction of the cities.

> "I think this is a very devastating tragedy, but even worse than the destruction is how much of the relief effort has not been able to reach the people in need after this amount of time."
> - Third-year student Nidhi Kohli

"I think this is a very devastating tragedy, but even worse than the destruction is how much of the relief effort has not been able to reach the people in need after this amount of time" said third-year student Nidhi Kohli. "It seems that so much money has been raised, but it has filtered through so many hands by the time it reaches the people who need it, and certain groups are being ignored even though everyone needs help."

The Erindale College Student Union and Vibe Radio are currently joining forces to discuss relief efforts within the UTM community and will release their decision shortly.

Photo courtesy of www.cnn.com

Tsunami victims reach out to relief packages brought in by foreign aid. The risk of starvation and disease among the survivors may increase the death toll.

Campus Police Reports

Week of December 2nd-8th, 2004

December 2nd, 2004 @ 5:30 p.m.
Theft under $5000

A student's textbook and notes were stolen from a Library desk.

December 3rd, 2004 @ 2:07 p.m.
Suspicious Person

University Police investigated a complaint by two women about a man seen watching them through a window at Roy Ivor Hall. The man fled on foot.

December 4th, 2004 @ 1:38 a.m.
Noise Complaint

University Police quieted a party at a McLuhan Court residence.

December 4th, 2004 @ 9:46 a.m.
Mischief under $5000

A fire extinguisher was maliciously discharged in a room at the South Building.

December 4th, 2004 @ 8:45 p.m.
Harassment by Phone

A female student received many unwanted calls on her cell phone. She was assisted by Peel Police and UTM Police.

December 5th, 2004 @ 8:50 p.m.
Criminal Harassment

University Police investigated a dispute between two men who were related. Both persons were not affiliated with UTM. One man was banned from campus.

December 6th, 2004 @ 9:00 p.m.
Fail to Remain

A parked vehicle was damaged at Lot 8. The rear bumper was dented.

December 8th, 2004 @ 3:29 p.m.
Elevator Entrapment

Two people were stuck in an elevator at the CCIT Building. They were released when the system was reset by a service technician.

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EDITORIAL

THE MEDIUM

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Forces of Nature

EDITORIAL

Welcome to 2005. The start of a new year is always regarded as a time to start things fresh. For most of us, starting fresh means quitting smoking, going to the gym, eating less carbs or some other self-promise of breaking bad habits. Whether a new year means a new start, or just another year passed in your lifetime, there is no doubt that it is a defining moment in both our calendar and our history. For some members of our earth more than others, the start of 2005 will mean starting over in the most literal sense of the term.

The recent turning of the new year was an eventful one. A yuletide season marked by orange revolution in Europe and blue tragedy in the South Pacific and Asia. There is much to say on the future of Ukraine following the election, but when it comes to thinking about global issues, I think Ukraine's politics take a back seat to the Tsunami disaster.

When newspaper headlines first informed me of the "Waves of Death" that had struck much of Asia, I was aghast. Like many, I found myself in a confused state of mind. The best way to describe it might be a silent shock. To hear and see the mass destruction wrought by forces of nature, it is hard to comprehend such an event. It feels as though your mind is an old computer trying to process a program but it just isn't fast enough to do so.

Tragedy caused by nature is harder to deal with than tragedy caused by humans. Think of the citizens of Iraq, and the tragedy that they have endured, whether at the hands of Saddam Hussein or George Bush. The cause of their tragedy is evident to them. It is manifested in their enemy, so they always have someone to blame, someone to curse, and someone to hate for their suffering.

But who do the victims of the tsunami blame? If you're the religious type, you may blame God. Even if you're not religious, I suspect God is an easy target. It certainly isn't my place to comment on any God's work, but I don't think about a tsunami as an act of some higher power. Unless you consider nature a higher power, which, given the awesome forces it can produce, would not be inaccurate.

A friend of mind has an MSN name that really sticks out of the list. You might know him, his name is Tonci Hockmann. His MSN name currently reads "Arrogance of humanity, thinking they could tame nature." Well said, Tonci. As a race, we people think pretty highly of ourselves. Sure we're developed and self-aware and evolved and civilized and all that jazz, but we're really nothing more than layers in the same big onion that is this world. Most of the time, we run the show. Or we think we do. But every once in a while, nature puts us back in our place. Like the recent Tsunami disaster.

Victims of such a disaster would surely curse nature if they felt her responsible for such an event. And they'd be just in doing so. But if you stop and think for a minute about the relationship between the earth and humans, the issue takes an interesting shape.

Considering how badly humanity treats the earth, it seems oddly fair that the earth strike back now and again. Of course, I'd never argue this fact with a victim of such a tragedy. And I won't for a second state that if I fell victim to similar circumstances I would accept the notion that mother nature was hitting back because we as humans hit her first. But think about it for a moment. Think of the wanton destruction of nature that humanity has caused, especially in the last several hundred years during our accelerated development as a species.

Animal and plant life are destroyed for homes, highways, headgear and countless other human benefits. Pollution fills our earth, our seas, and our skies. If the earth can be viewed as a living entity, and we humans are the sole cause of such pain for this being, should we really be surprised if it strikes back?

I admit, the idea of the earth deliberately striking back at humans is a hard notion to swallow. In truth, the explanation for this disaster lies in pure science. Pressure from the earth's core built up over time until the earth's crust was no longer able to contain it. When the lid finally blew, the results were devastating. As silly as this notion may sound to those of a scientific persuasion, it makes simple sense to me. In struggling to comprehend death and destruction on so grand a scale as this, I found understanding and acceptance in believing that perhaps, to a certain degree, humanity deserves a slap in the face now and again. After all, the earth is only acting in self defense.

Till next time...

Adrian Barek

THE MEDIUM is published weekly by Medium II Publications; a non-profit, incorporated student organization. The opinions expressed within are those of the writers and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of Medium II Publications. THE MEDIUM's mandate includes informing students of local and national concerns, and giving Erindale College students an opportunity to practice journalism.

'Farewell, Coleman' by Vincent Liu

Donate and double your help before Jan. 11

Dear UTM Community,

A tragedy of epic proportions has struck our planet. As you have no doubt heard, giant Tsunamis in Asia have killed over 150,000 and left millions more living amidst destruction and death.

For many Canadian residents, it may be hard to relate to such a tragedy since it happened on the other side of the world. But just because it has happened far away does not mean we can shrug our shoulders or turn a blind eye.

Mahatma Ghandi once said that you should be the change that you seek in the world. If you seek a better change for victims of the Tsunamis, than take a step by donating money towards relief programs. Now is a crucial time to do so, not only for the sake of the victims, but because your donation will be doubled by the Canadian government.

Everyone likes to curse the government, but for once the government is doing something right. The Canadian government has promised to match every private donation made towards Tsunami relief charities. That means if you donate $100, the Canadian government will also donate $100. For every dollar you are willing to donate, that dollar will be matched, and recipients of aid will receive double your donation.

This program is only in effect until January 11th, so think about it, and make the right choice by donating money to a charity. There are many charities to donate to, but two of the main ones in Canada are:

1) **CARE Canada**: www.care.ca or 1-800-267-5232
2) **Canadian Red Cross**: www.redcross.ca or 1-800-418-1111

John Poller

Don't worry, you're through one of the most stressful months of the year...

Yes, you're back from vacation time. You've had time to recover from exams but that's not what I'll solely refer to in this article. Yes, we get the crunch time to the extreme this year with classes ending on Wednesday then exams starting the next day. Many essays were due and many tests crammed as humanly (or maybe that's inhumanly for some of you) possible together right up to the 21st, the day I'm writing this.

But as I look back over this time and looking a bit ahead, this is actually also the most stressful month for all. Students got the exams but adults and the working class got it bad too. Research has shown recently that there are more panic attacks and even deaths or serious breakdowns during this supposed merry time of the year. For those who start out jolly going out to the malls to shop for their loved ones, I know I've seen that joy drop considerably and more nastiness come out than usual. There are arguments in line ups for the cash register. There are bus drivers getting screamed at to make stops and go faster at the same time. I've even seen a lady get so angry that she complained very loudly about the free gift wrapping being too slow. Yes, you read that. The FREE gift wrapping was too slow. Maybe those saccharine-loaded TV Christmas specials are having a bit of the opposite effect, or maybe that colour red is referring more to anger and rage than love.

So everyone take a deep breath now. Whether you're a student getting through tough exams or a teacher or TA who had to hunt down Robosapian or the Nintendo DS for the little ones. We're through the toughest time of the year, ironically enough the jolliest. Guess these days that joy comes from when it's over and you're just with family and friends at home, not in the crazed malls (and heck, that's Canadian/American malls; try an Asian one sometime and I can tell from experience but that's for another time). And hey, it's easy from here, well, at least until next December.

Have a great new year and welcome back!

Jon Lee

Send responses, rants, letters, and opinions to...

editor@mediumonline.ca

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Sequel serves up more of the same

MOVIE REVIEW:
Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason
BY JOHN ARMSTRONG

Audiences warmly embraced the film version of Helen Fielding's bestselling novel *Bridget Jones' Diary*, despite its ambiguous message concerning the role of women at the cusp of the new millennium. North Americans in particular overlooked the fact that Fielding's title character is a neurotic man-chaser and self-obsessed throwback to an era of more patrician values. I suspect that this had everything to do with Renée Zellweger's excellent comic performance as the bumbling, emotionally distraught, yet charmingly frazzled Bridget. *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason* offers up more of the same delicious character play between Zellweger and leads Colin Firth and Hugh Grant.

A question for the film's producers: How can a story set in London, shot in English locations and primarily concerned with the lives of upper-middle class Brits seem like the *least* English movie ever made? All the essential British clichés are included here. The rain and fog are gloomy and wet, while the humor is dry and the accents are appropriately plumy. Yet the whole picture has the feel of a Hollywood production gone overseas for a bit of a dirty weekend. Perhaps it has something to do with the mixture of high production values and overly stylized backgrounds with romantically re-created London cityscapes. Or maybe it's just that Firth and Grant have successfully made the Hollywood crossover and are now often associated with these glossy American/European co-productions (both appeared in last year's Christmas feel-good story *Love Actually*).

Once again, Grant reprises his role as the caddish Daniel Cleaver with devilish charm. The film only confirms that he is more suited to playing the smarmy, middle-aged playboy than his usual foppish romantic lead. Unfortunately, he is given less screen time in this sequel, and after the film takes a strange turn with an unlikely interlude in Thailand, he almost disappears from the script.

Fans of Firth won't be disappointed with his faithful re-creation of the stodgy Mark Darcy. Fielding has made it known that she wrote the character of Mark Darcy as an homage to Firth's portrayal of Mr. Darcy in the BBC's much-loved adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. Luckily, the producers convinced Firth to sign on to the project and play the grouch with a heart of gold as a straight man to Grant's more showy and rakish Cleaver.

Zellweger's treatment at the hands of director Beeban Kidron, who takes the helm of the franchise this time around, is more problematic. The scriptwriters are boundless in their cruelty towards Bridget, placing her in increasingly embarrassing situations, and Kidron's camera shoots her from the most unflattering angles available. In *Bridget Jones' Diary*, Zellweger made the title role into a showcase for an unlucky but loveable character and used her skill with physical comedy to make us laugh. With this script she has little to do but suffer through various humiliations and retrace ground already covered in the first film.

If you were one of the many who devoured both novels and loved the first movie, you will still find moments of enjoyment here (another ridiculous fight scene between Firth and Grant grows no less hilarious the second time around), but you would probably do better to spend a couple of free hours with a warm blanket and the *Bridget Jones' Diary* DVD.

Workman works well

CONCERT REVIEW
Hawksley Workman
BY KAREN SUE

If there is ever a man to see in concert, it is Hawklsey Workman. His soothing voice, breath-catching music and laissez-faire confidence have garnered him a strong fan following, along with several marriage proposals screamed from the peanut gallery.

The concert was held at Eastminster Church just a week before Christmas Day, which lent a feeling of holiday peace to the air. Hawksley and his piano man Mr. Lonely sat at the altar preaching music to the soul, and his devotees could only listen transfixed to the man of the hour.

Hawksley sang a mélange of Christmas songs and crowd favourites. He composes all of his own songs and the tunes reflect his dualistic nature of poet and prankster. With a mischievous grin, Hawksley delivered tantalizing lyrics that drew woops and whistles from the crowd. Some girls practically fainted from glee as he crooned "I want to kiss you deeply between your swollen lips."

The night came to a close with guest appearances by Jully Black and another singer whose name I forget (bad reviewer, bad!). It was a powerful performance nonetheless, and the audience responded with a standing ovation. Mr. Workman kindly obliged with not one, but three encores! A remarkable show of devotion to his fans as he was sick and only survived the concert by chugging Buckley's between songs.

I'm a relatively new fan of Hawksley, but as soon as I heard his album *Lover/Fighter* over the summer, I knew I had to see this man in concert if I ever had the chance. He proves to be just as good, if not better live. It's different from the studio recordings, because he adds to his live performance with quirky breaks in the middle of songs – he pauses, tells a story about buying a shirt, examines the ceiling for a bit, and delves right back into the music – making it seem like an intrinsic part of the composition.

Before the performance began, fellow concertgoer Jeanette Cabral told me she had seen Hawksley in concert nine times already. *Nine times??? He better be damn good*, I thought. He is.

Let actors entertain you

CATS appeared at the Canon Theatre in December just in time to put Torontonians in the musical mind frame for *The Phantom of the Opera* film release. A touring company of this long-running musical (23 years!) made a two-week stop to the delight of many Andrew Lloyd Webber fans. Unfortunately, it seems many of today's theatergoers want to devour any unsavoury performances. My heart went out to those on stage who gave everything they had in a very demanding show, only to have audience members criticize every little mistake, weak spot, and drawback of touring that were, for the most part, unavoidable for the actors.

When going to see a production by a touring company, one must prepare oneself. Take the size of the show: any elaborate special effects or extravagant sets will be toned down. That's just logical. Some actors will be stronger than others in a touring show as well; the producers weren't looking for an all-star cast to do a breakout original performance. The purpose of a touring company is to capture the essence of the show. Just sit back, relax and get lost in the music, dancing and story that is put before you for a few hours. Many of the people around me, however, made comments at intermission and after the show that completely took away from everything I was trying to enjoy about it.

With *CATS*, we are whisked away to a completely new world where Jellicle cats meet once a year to hear Old Deuteronomy, their leader, decide which cat is worthy enough to ascend to the Heavyside Layer, the equivalent of heaven for cats, and be reborn as a new cat. Each of them takes their turn to show off as well as spread a little gossip about other cats who appear unworthy of such a gift.

Right from the first notes of the overture, I was hooked. The lively, jazzy tunes are simply irresistible and my toes were tapping in an instant. Suddenly, before you realize what's happening, a thousand bright green eyes flash on just feet from your face as the cats explore the audience before they embark on their magical journey.

Granted, some of the singing was off in a few numbers, but because the show itself was the purpose and not individual performances, I forgave them. Yes, some of the dancing wasn't up to par with the original, but I forgave them. A true highlight was to watch the understudy for Mr. Mistoffelees do a fabulous job of a very difficult dance number. You could tell he was a little inexperienced, but we forgave him because he gave it his all and still made us believe he was as magical as his song proclaimed.

This is all part of the joys of live theatre – not everything is going to be perfect. Mistakes happen, cues get missed, life goes on. We are so used to seeing movies, which can be manipulated to appear perfect, that we lose tolerance and appreciation for the live performance.

Basically, what I'm saying is give actors a break. Sometimes people don't belong in certain roles. Sometimes actors have off nights. But why be so quick to scoff a show because one actor isn't up to your expectations (I concede this would be difficult with a two-actor play)? I understand this advice goes against everything I am supposed to stand for as a reviewer, but I'm mad that I left the theatre frustrated at the audience when I should have left with a feeling of contentment from experiencing an escape from our otherwise troubled world.

The next time you go to see a theatrical production, be it a mega-musical or a small piece of community theatre, try to see the show for what it really is and recognize how much work an actor is putting in to try to entertain you. If you can't quiet the critic within enough to let the actors do their job, don't even bother going.

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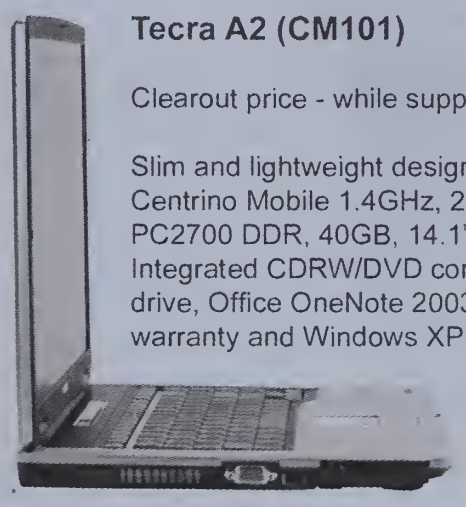

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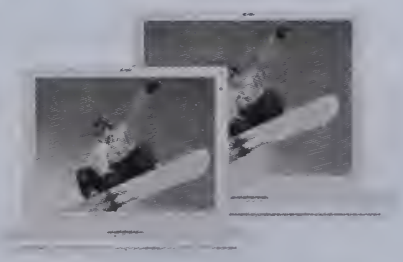

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Ray LaMontagne's music career was worth the *Trouble*

Ray LaMontagne speaks with Vibe DJ Manizeh Khan about being a musician, an introvert, and a success.

Can you briefly describe how you started your career in music?

I started to really get an interest, a serious interest in music when I was about 20-years-old. I think for about the next five years after that I basically just listened to records all the time and slowly started to attempt to write my own songs. It was a long process because I was a very introverted person at 20-years-old, a very, very introverted person. So it took me a long time to break through that barrier, you know.

How does it feel now that you've achieved the first album?

It felt like a natural progression. I made my first recording in '99 and then started gigging in that time, and over the next four or five years I made three more recordings of my own. I was working on my fourth or fifth when I signed with Chrysalis publishing. Within that year of being signed with Chrysalis we made this album here (*Trouble*). Again there was no label involved at that time, we just started to make the record on our own really. It really felt like a natural progression, just sort of a steady flow building. So I'm pleased, but I just feel that it was a product of the hard work we did.

How did you react to the amount of critical acclaim you got with your first released album? There were rave reviews everywhere: was that something you were expecting?

No. When Ethan and I were making the record we had several conversations to the effect of it was going to be very difficult for me to find a home for this record. We didn't think first of all that any major label would ever even touch it, we thought we'd be lucky if we could find a small independent label, which is just fine with me. So that was really my goal, hopefully find an independent label that would pick it up and then start working towards earning a fan base. So I'm a bit in awe, very surprised at the level of interest it got.

I read that the actual recording process only took two weeks. Was this because everything was already almost complete or was there just that much energy?

It was a lot of things. It was recorded very straightforward, straight to tape, no computers or anything like that. It was recorded in a classic studio in Los Angeles. Like I say, it was so straightforward, just a couple of microphones. I sang the songs live while Ethan played drums about six feet away from me. Just a couple of mikes, one mike on the drums and one mike on me. The songs were all written and we just tried to capture a good performance of the songs. It was very simple, we didn't have a lot of time, we didn't have a lot of money, and we didn't really need it either.

Do you think you would have done things differently if you had a bigger budget?

Maybe, in a way I would have taken some more time with some things. But I think it was good for the first record to do it this way. If I had too much time I never would have finished it, because I was just not pleased with my own performances. I still haven't really come to terms with my performances on this record. So having the limited time forced me to accept it.

You've mentioned Ethan Johns quite a bit: could you elaborate on the role he has with this album?

He produced the record, he played a lot of the instruments on the record. I think he's a great producer, personally. He's not the kind of producer who tries to put his stamp on the record other than the fact that he's an engineer at the same time. He engineered this record and mixed it as we went. He's very multitalented and he's great at capturing a good performance on tape, he doesn't dissect things too much. He's a purist in a way. I don't think he'd be too happy with what the recording process is turning into, where little bits and pieces are put together like a puzzle – it doesn't capture that energy.

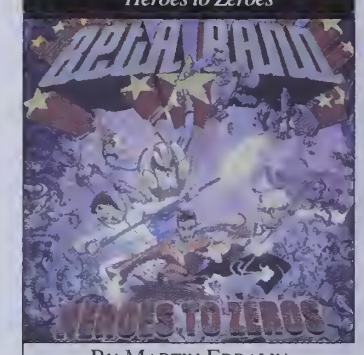
If you had to sum it up, what would the biggest change be from leading a private life to being a singer on tour?

Being so open to criticism I suppose and having to be social. I spent the five years really trying to take off the armor; I had put up such a...I secluded myself so much. I was trying to just do work, living away from people. I sort of took off the armor, I started to feel very comfortable about myself, because I didn't have to see people on a regular basis. I would be in the woods in the cabin for weeks at a time and just going into town for a construction job or to go the hardware store – it was always on my terms. So now I find myself very out of control with that – I have to be around people all the time and I find myself putting the armor back on, which I didn't want to. I was happy being free of it. So that's difficult.

This interview was recorded on December 2, 2004. The complete version aired on Vibe 91.9fm on December 8, 2004. Thanks to Tenni Gharakhanian, Vibe 91.9FM Music Director, for all her help.

Beta Band can do better than *Zeroes*

CD Review
The Beta Band
Heroes to Zeroes



By Martin Edralin

The Beta Band's third full-length album (minus the epic *The 3 E.P.'s*) is another exhibition of the band's eclecticism and unpredictability. While the formula worked for them in the past, it fails here. What differs this time around is that the formula was used three times before this release.

Heroes to Zeroes is a challenging listen. It sounds more like a random collection of unfinished tracks than a complete and consistent album. The Beta Band has not contributed to the evolution of their sound in any way, thus *Heroes to Zeroes* sounds like a compilation of recycled material.

There are still a few shining moments of past glory on the album. The opening song, "Assessment," is perhaps the loudest song in the band's catalogue. It features two guitars which build to a roaring close of blasting horns. "Easy" is a catchy, well crafted pop song containing Stevie Wonder influenced keyboards.

The best track of the album is "OutSide." The song demonstrates the band's extremities in eclecticism with heavy beats, a sample of a dog barking, electric guitar riffs, bells, and a synthesizer, not to mention the numerous changes in tempo throughout the song.

"Rhododendron" is an instrumental which sounds like a playful conversation between an organ, a set of bongos, and a triangle (yes, the triangle is used outside of elementary school!). "Simple" is another beautiful pop song demonstrating the bands introspective songwriting. Stephen Mason, the band's vocalist, sings of the paradox of independence resulting in miserable loneliness.

What plagues the songs on the rest of the album is the recurring build up (or down) from the beginning of the song to a closing energetic charge or soothing melody. Rather than preparing listeners for the climax, the build up tends to lag until the final relief of the exceptional close.

Overall, the album will definitely be enjoyed by Beta Band fans. For those who have yet to discover this indie rock gem, however, don't start here!

ECSU Erindale College Student Union News and Notes

Welcome Back

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FEATURES

Picture of the Week: "White"

By Miron Lulic

"You thought about everyone else, now its time to think of yourself!"

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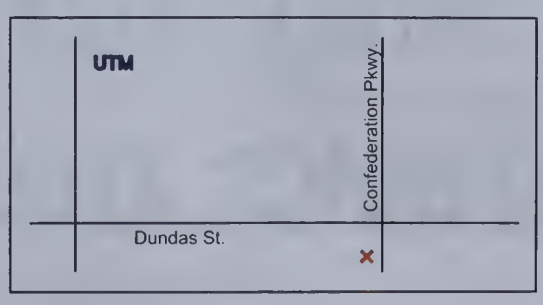

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Expressive Writing...

No charge to pay attention

By Nerrad Evorglens

It's cold out here. It's really cold. I look up to the night sky. The stars, holes poked in the black velvet of night, twinkle down at me: Christmas in the wild, dark forest. The shadows of trees hulk above. They refuse to look real. They're a bad special effect in a B-movie. The sounds are unreal. The sounds are non-existent. I think about numbers. I think about knowledge. I think about the silence that surrounds and the infrequency of the pleasure. Do you remember the last time you heard nothing? Nothing is hard to hear. You have to be paying attention.

Deck boards crack as I walk; ice in the fibers. Snow crunches underfoot, smashing together bits of hard water. Listening, looking and pissing off a deck in sub-zero temperatures is enlightening. You know how insignificant you are. You know the cold can take you at any time.

So I walk to the side of the cabin. Snow crunches, deck-boards crack and it echoes off the trees. The surface of the lake is hardened by the cold. What used to be liquid is now solid. The temperature enabled the liquid to form a lattice. You can walk on it, you can smash it with a hammer, it's not water anymore.

Far-off voices beckon me inside. My breath engulfs my still warm face. An other opens the door and breaks the still-silence, "Hey, can you grab a couple beers while you're out there?"

"Yeah, I'll be right in."

The door closes.

I stare up into and beyond the trees for a moment longer. The silence, the peace, the significance of the moment is gone.

Walking, crunching and cracking over to the cooler, half submerged in a snowdrift, I lift the top and pull out a couple beers. The moment was there, but now it's gone.

I'm back inside. People are talking. Music is playing. It's warm and comfortable. I'm full. My ears are full. I have a warm place to sleep tonight. I want for nothing except understanding.

There are few moments in your life when you feel awe, but look up into a star filled sky, in isolation, and refute it. There's a lot of space in this universe. Most of the time you don't even think about it. Once in a while, it trumps. Words convey and actions speak but the universe ignores you completely. You have to look into it to see what it's saying. If you catch it at the right time and you're paying close attention, it'll speak to you. It says something like this "You are small, you're actions mean nothing, find something else to do because your ambitions are pointless."

Well, that's what the universe says to me anyway. We're getting closer now since I started paying attention so I'm not so offended.

So I was talking with the universe the other day and she challenged me about some thing or other and I said, "Yeah, that may be so, but there are 6 billion human beings with consciousness on this planet."

The universe said, "yeah, but they're not paying attention."

I don't know what she meant but...she's right.

We're not paying attention.

Short Prose...

Balcony Blues

By Syed Sarfraz Ali

Layla lights up her Benson & Hedges Ultra Light.

"Tell me everything," she says coolly as she continues to strap herself in her grey wool coat.

I look back through the screen door into the apartment. Steven sets himself on the edge of the love seat. His gaze set towards us in the balcony. Like always, he won't accept responsibility. He should be the one telling her. He's the one that brought it up.

A smirk deceives his concern. Such an idiot. I sigh.

"I'm sorry you have to hear this from me," I say to Layla. "It's about Shabbs. He hasn't been exactly honest with you."

I detail every incident of Shabbs' infidelities. The time he lied about his participation in the debate club downtown only to meet some chick from Scarborough while he made Layla wait at a café. The time he spent with Kareen, his Tim Horton's co-worker, when he said he had to work on the weekends. His supposed Economics study-dates with Cindy and her study group.

We polish off half of Layla's cigarette pack. I couldn't resist. It's 'nipple freezing' cold, as Steven likes to say. The glass ashtray is full of ash and cigarette butts. I should have bought some patio furniture. The mat is wet. My feet feel icky. Layla keeps a brave face. She smiles to the stories and takes in hard puffs. Never seen her so quiet. She asked for the truth about Shabbs. I'm sure Steven is paying close attention. I wonder what he's thinking.

I finish with "...and that's pretty much it about Shabbs. I'm sorry you had to hear all this from me."

There's an awkward pause. "Are you okay, Layla?" I ask.

"Yea...I'm fine," she whispers. She takes a long puff of her cigarette and looks out towards the city skyline - Bright lights everywhere with snow covered houses, roads and pavements.

Thick warm air fumes out on top of buildings. Just a handful of cars on the highways and local streets. The city seems soulless tonight. I want to go back inside. Silence petrifies me.

"Layla?" I call softly and break my fear.

A tear races down her right cheek. I really shouldn't be dealing with this. She needs one of her girlfriends. Steven is such an idiot.

Steven walks up and slides the screen door open. He steps onto the balcony with us and shuts the door behind him. Layla turns around.

"You knew all this about Shabbs and didn't tell me," Layla sobs.

"Why?" she demands. Steven has no answer. His head droops down.

"How could you be friends with Shabbs still, knowing all this? How could you pretend?"

I step into the apartment. Layla fixes her gaze on Steven. I made peace with this problem when I discontinued my friendship with Shabbs. It's Steven's mess now. He should be handling this. Before I head further inside my room, I take a quick peek out the screen door. Steven has Layla in his arms as she cries on his black Banana Republic sweater. Maybe he's not such an idiot after all.

Welcome Back
and
Happy New Year!!

Stay tuned for more news next week from your SAC!!!

Alone in the Green Darkness

By Jordan Downey

The water rushed past me
On its way to the sea
Its voice the sound of a thousand angry men
Who were far, far away
Yet still loud enough,
To nearly drown out the bird chirping away
High up behind me

Here I sat alone
Alone with my thoughts
Taking in the peace
Of that place among the rocks

Caring not to run, jump or to play
Wishing only to stay
And pass the day away
On the island in the stream
In that deep forest of green

Opinion...

Up in Smoke

By John Armstrong

What strange and bewildering times we live in. At a terribly swanky pre-Christmas house party held in a loft overlooking College street a little while ago, I made the discovery that it is now more socially unacceptable to smoke a cigarette in public than it is to light up a joint or do a line of coke off of the host's built-in marble pastry board.

It happened as one of my companions pulled out a DuMaurier light and a Zippo and began to make preparations. Seconds later the host flew across the room and barked, "Put that thing away! You can't smoke anywhere in the building, including the terrace."

My guest apologized and looked suitably embarrassed and chastised but then muttered, "What the hell? There's like four different joints the size of bananas circling the room, and I'm pretty sure all those people hovering around the brushed-steel counter tops in the kitchen aren't discussing the pros and cons of Asian fusion cuisine."

"Pot's a clean smoke," our host explained. "I can't stand the smell of cigarette smoke, and anyways - half the people here are very allergic to it." Hmmm… we soon exited to a seedy local on Bathurst Street where even the bike couriers and granola-crunching yoga nuts enjoy a fag once in a while.

On a social level, the latest move by the provincial government to ban smoking from all public places and private clubs whether segregated or not, places both chronic and casual smokers in terrain once inhabited by dopers, thieves and other perceived undesirables. The irony is that technically at least, smoking is still a legal activity in Canada however socially stigmatized it might be. The question now is - Will the government attempt to legalize dope and remove whatever remains of any residual sense of shame that those charged with possession might be burdened with? Doing so might somewhat diminish the aura of cool that still surrounds the enjoyment of Cannabis and dull the attraction of the forbidden fruit.

It's hard to imagine anyone in this day and age being tagged with possession of small amounts for personal use. With dropping E now an accepted part of the Sunday morning ritual and suburban couples necking back Viagra before heading out to downtown leather parties, the notion of getting "busted" seems like a quaint anachronism. The authorities wisely refrain from prosecuting such minor transgressions because they would be harassing students, doctors, soccer moms, designers, lawyers etc…. In other words, just about everyone who participates in a culture that just doesn't see anything morally wrong with seeking small pleasures on occasion.

If smoking is so offensive to society at large then why don't we simply make it illegal and end all the awkward manoeuvring? It might be amusing to watch as we try to subtly legalize one common vice while desperately trying to stamp out another identical habit. The present mess of rules and regulations surrounding the use and sale of these stimulants already resembles a surreal game of Whack-a-Mole in the way that people have to twist and squirm in order to pursue their chosen method of self-destruction in peace.

Toronto extended its legal serving hours in the 90s under pressure from special event coordinators and the elite of the city's social scene. We can thank the Toronto International Film Festival and the Downtown Jazz Festival for browbeating the city into allowing us to order a bottle of wine after 12:30 am. In the face of peer pressure from the culture vultures that convinced us we had to imitate the Europeans in order to be "world class", Toronto's moral guardians dropped their trousers in unison. Quell horror! What will the big important stars like Alec Baldwin and Jennifer Anniston do when we force them to "step out into the alley" when they want a nice cigar to pair with their cognac and chocolate cake? Let them eat Timbits I say. A sour cream glazed or a walnut crunch will go nicely with all that pot they'll be forced to smoke.

Rant...

An ode to customers

By Mariangela Tesoro

I'm sure the majority of you can bitch about your job; I mean come on, who the hell actually enjoys the job they are simply doing to pour more and more money into their education? I work two jobs to pay for school (and also pay for my addiction to nicotine and shoes...and alcohol on weekends). The movie Clerks by Kevin Smith has my favourite quote ever, "This job would be great if it wasn't for the fucking customers." This is true of both my jobs. The first is at a pharmacy. The second is at a clothing store.

When you stroll into your Pharmacy, chances are you're there for condoms, shampoo or to refill your birth control. Then you want to get the hell out of there as quick as you can (especially if you're on a condom run). My favourite customers are the ones who assume they have strolled into a land of make believe where I have a desire to talk to them. I sit perched at my register with a copy of Spin magazine, a can of diet coke and a Kit Kat and I assure you the cute little "Hope I'm not bothering you" they quip to distract me from reading the Beastie's Boy interview is a bother. I don't care that you think your Lotto 6-49 ticket is going to win and you're going to "come back and give me a million bucks" (FYI the last 50 morons before you said the same friggin thing). I don't care that you're not sure which Yeast infection medication your wife sent you for (you shouldn't even know that information, let alone allow me to know it). I especially don't require (especially if you're a 350 pound man with sweat stains and you smell like rotten beef) that you whip down your box of Extra Large Trojans on the counter and smile at me as if the fact someone else is having sex with you means I'm interested! Oh yeah and I'm sorry you have allergies/cold/cough but in five years I have had 15 customers (and yes I have been counting) who have actually sneezed on me over the counter, 27 who have sneezed into the same hand that was holding the money, 35 who have wiped their nose with the same hand as the money, 17 that have coughed on me, and one marriage proposal from a guy holding a pregnancy test! Also, don't ask me to pick the winning scratch ticket for you, don't ask me if we sell jumper cables for your car and don't ask me what I think that rash looks like, if the swelling will go down or if I think it's a cold sore or herpes. Don't ask me what my preferred brand is, if there is tax on this or if you can return your ointment if it doesn't work. And I'm sorry you have a cold, migraine, backache, stomach ache, flu, fever, gonorrhoea, diarrhoea, rashes, gashes, wounds, toothaches, streap throat, stuffy nose, pulled muscle, pink eye, dandruff, head lice, inflammation, menstruation, back sprain, leg pain, but I'm making minimal money to listen to your crap so please BOTHER THE PHARMACIST, yeah they care just about as much as I do, but at least they're getting paid to listen to your crap. I have a 15 page essay due tomorrow and really, honestly and truthfully wish for nothing more then your flu ending up as fatal.

My second job, which is only slightly better then the first, is at a clothing store.

Retail is a delightful world of splendour. Who doesn't love shopping? Your boyfriend dumped you, so shop! It's payday, so shop! You failed your midterms, so shop! Shopping has always held a majestic splendour for me, but this was yanked violently away in a cruel and twisted trick of faith. I work in retail. Remember when you were little and Santa was this glorious man who brought presents from the North Pole? Remember when you found out mom was just buying the shit from Sears? Welcome to the fantastic world of being a Sale's Associate. I work at a store that does not carry "higher end" products. I will refrain from mentioning the exact name but think three washes and the clothing dissolves… yeah that's the store! Nothing yanks your illusion or love of clothing quicker then working at a store. The beautiful navy jeans with the embroidered pocket, yeah I found a mutant bug/beetle smushed into the belt loop of one that had made its way straight to us from Bangladesh. But that is just the nuts and bolts. The fun part is the customers.

My favourite is Mr. Clearance. Mr. Clearance wanted a discount on his ten dollar pair of jeans because there was a small (washable) stain on the bottom cuff. Why? CLEARANCE. My definition of clearance is: Shit that other customers have demolished, shit we're tired of looking at, shit that is dirty, shit that is torn, shit that smells - and yes some of it does, and shit that is very ugly. You cannot have a discount and even if you could I wouldn't give it to you because you are being disgustingly cheap! Also, if you come in to do a return don't expect someone to help you with anything, they are helping you with someone else's commission so it's not freakin likely. And if your planning on trying on that clearance top for five bucks, don't expect anyone to jump to get you a change room (no commission off that either), and if it's within the last half hour to closing time we have already turned off all customer service for the evening. And yes, if it seems like we're in a rush to leave at 9:15 p.m. when you're still sauntering around the store it's because we are! Closed at 9 means just that! After your stupid ass leaves we have to clean the mess your stupid ass made while you were plunging into the five dollar shirts like it was your job. So get out, get lost and I don't mean it when I say "Thank you", I don't mean it when I say "Come again" and I especially don't mean it when I tell you those jeans/shirt/jacket look good on you, because in all likelihood they don't!

Uni

By Kamran Ahmed

Paradoxically life itself is a hypocrisy,
Prophesize-ing your death the minute you start to breath.
A series of events strung so masterfully
That it goes by many names, "destiny", "co-incidence" even "conformity";
Giving religious observers constantly,
Phenomenon as proof of existence to Con-vert me.
Me, a lost cause, another social casualty
Casually, wasting my life enrolled in institutions that claim morality.
Clarity, job security and equality,
While suckin all my resources and drowning me into poverty.
Eatin dollers that I would have otherwise given to my family
Are recycled again into the system that enslaves us minority's.
Selling an image and stripping our identity,
Reinforcing our responses through grades and accolades.
So next time you hear people regurgitating what the "prof sees"
Raise your hand and give em a piece of your own philosophy.

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RESUME & COVER LETTER WORKSHOP: Mon Jan. 10, 2-4. ONLINE APPLICATIONS: Thurs Jan. 20, 11-12.
CAREER PANELS - ACTIVISM: Tuesday, Jan. 18, 11-1; CCIT: Wed Jan. 19, 12-2; WOMEN'S STUDIES: Jan. 20, 4-6.
SUMMER JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP: Thursday, Jan. 13, 11-12; FOR SCIENCE STUDENTS: Monday, Jan. 10, 12-1.
EFFECTIVE INTERVIEWS: Wed Jan. 12, 2-4. NOW THAT I'M GRADUATING, WHAT'S NEXT? Mon Jan. 17, 10-11.
MEDICAL SCHOOL INFO SESSIONS: Thursday, Jan. 13, 1-2; Monday, Jan. 24, 1-2. Sign up for sessions online!

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Sports

The year in sports: top sports moments from 2004

BY MICHAEL SINGH

Basketbrawl

The ugliest moment of the sports year had to come on November 19th, when one of the largest brawls in sports history occurred at the Palace of Auburn Hills in Detroit. When Pistons center Ben Wallace and Indian Pacers forward Ron Artest were separated from a small scuffle, everybody thought things were under control. However, things were just getting started, after a fan threw a cup of beer at Artest, Artest rushed into the stands, attacking the fan, followed by other players trying to separate him and the fans, or attack other fans. Artest, Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal from the Pacers were all suspended for their actions. This was one of the worst sport scenes in recent memory, changing the game from then on.

Tour de Lance

A true survivor and a true hero is Lance Armstrong. Armstrong is a survivor of cancer, a disease that was supposed to end his bike racing career. However, Armstrong has inspired every cancer victim to persevere, as since 1999, he has won each Tour de France, one of the most grueling sporting events in the world. Armstrong has seemingly gotten stronger over the years, as he cruised to victory in the 2004 event, winning by his widest margin ever. He captured six of the tour's twenty stages on route to victory and once again showed the world that he is a true hero to every cancer victim and survivor.

No Olympic Gold

In one of the most shocking stories of the year, Team USA failed to come away with the gold medal in basketball at the Olympics. USA had always been thought of as a lock to win the gold in basketball, but in 2004, something went wrong. USA came with a team far from the best they had to offer, but still by far the best at the tournament, or so they thought. The American's could not keep up with the faced paced, sharp shooting of the international teams, as they lost to Argentina in the semi-finals and were forced to settle for bronze, for the first time since USA started bringing pro players.

The Perfect Game

The forty year old still has it. Randy Johnson became the oldest player to ever throw a perfect game in baseball, as on May 18th 2004 he defeated the Atlanta Braves 2-0 to mark his first career perfect game. Johnson at his age is arguably the games best pitcher and he proved it that day and over the course of the year, winning sixteen games while racking up a 2.60 earn run average (ERA).

Sucker Punch

In one of the scariest sights of 2004, Vancouver's Todd Bertuzzi sucker punch on Colorado's Steve Moore left Moore unconscious on the ice while being trampled on by several players. Bertuzzi punched Moore from behind during a regular season game, then proceeded to drive him face first into the ground, while attempting to punch him again. Avalanche players had to pull Bertuzzi off of Moore before he attacked him again. Moore suffered severe neck injuries as well a concussion and his ability to play again is still in doubt. The league suspended Bertuzzi indefinitely for his actions, as well as fining him $ 500,000.

The Gambler

He could not just come out and say it like a man that would not be his way. Pete Rose would admit to gambling but not in a press conference or in a magazine, but in his autobiography entitled "My Prison without Bars". Rose would admit that he did bet on baseball, a widely believed story that he finally confessed to after thirteen years of lying. Rose's confession brought back the debate as to whether or not he should be allowed into the Hall of Fame (HOF). The HOF continues to stand pat that he should not be enshrined but as baseball's all time leading hitter, he cannot be kept out forever.

Singh his Praises

Vijay Singh completed the greatest year of golf ever in 2004 by breaking the most money ever won record, set by Tiger Woods. Singh also displaced Woods from the number one ranking in the world and he beat him in a one-on-one showdown in the final round of a tournament earlier in the year. While some do not like Singh for his attitude off the green, nobody can deny his talents and his clear number one ranking in the world of golf.

0.4 Seconds is more than enough

It will go down as one of the wildest NBA playoff games in history, certainly the wildest last second in playoff history. With just 0.4 seconds left in the Lakers vs. Spurs playoff game, Tim Duncan hit a fall away 20-footer over Shaq's outstretched hand. This should have given the Spurs the win, but not on this day. Derek Fisher caught the ball with 0.4 seconds left and just turned and heaved it at the basket and it somehow, someway went in, giving the Lakers a 3-2 edge in the series, all but ending the Spurs hope. It will go down as one of the greatest shots in basketball history and as one of the flukiest as well.

4th and 26

Just say 4th and 26 to any football fan and they will know what you are talking about. Mention 4th and 26 to a Philadelphia Eagles fan and you will get praised, mention it to a Green Bay Packers fan and you may get attacked. With the Eagles trailing by three points and only 1:12 remaining in an NFC divisional playoff, the Eagles faced an unmakeable 4th and 26. But Eagles QB, Donovan McNabb, stepped up and hit Freddie Mitchell for 28 yards and a first down to give his team life. The Eagles went on to make the field goal to put the game into overtime and they won it in overtime.

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Winter UTM 2005 Try-Out Schedule

Women's Sports

Basketball (Div 1 & 2)	Jan. 4, 5, 6, 10	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Gym
Ice Hockey (Div 1 Only)	Jan. 9, 16	10:15 - 11:15 pm	Miss. Valley
Indoor Soccer (Div 1& 2)	Jan. 4, 5, 6, 10	9:00 - 10:00 pm	Gym
Lacrosse (Div 1 Only)	Jan. 4, 5, 6, 10	4:00 - 5:00 pm	Gym
Volleyball (Div 1& 2)	Jan. 4, 5, 6, 10	5:00 - 6:00 pm	Gym

Men's Sports

Basketball (Div 2 Only)	Jan. 4, 5, 6, 10	8:00 - 9:00 pm	Gym
Ice Hockey (Div 1 Only)	Jan. 9, 16	10:30 - 11:45 pm	Hershey Centre
Indoor Soccer (Div 1 & 2)	Jan. 4, 5, 6, 10	10:00 - 11:00 pm	Gym
Lacrosse (Div 1 Only)	Jan. 4, 5, 6, 10	4:00 - 5:00 pm	Gym
Volleyball (Div 1 & Div 2)	Jan. 4, 5, 6, 10	6:00 - 7:00 pm	Gym
Waterpolo	Jan. 6	6:00 pm	Room 1114

If you are unable to make any of these tryouts, but would like to participate, please contact Jack Krist (905) 569-4607 jkrist@utm.utoronto.ca or Louise Vanderwees (905) 828-3712 lpalmer@utm.utoronto.ca. For most teams, games and practices are only once a week. In most cases, transportation is provided for games played downtown and at Scarborough.

The year in sports: top sports stories from 2004

BY MICHAEL SINGH

1: Red Sox Reverse the Curse

REUTERS/Mike Blake

The Boston Red Sox came into the 2003-2004 season with one thing on their mind, winning the World Series and ended the dreaded curse of Babe Ruth. They went through the season well enough, earning the wild card easily and swept Anaheim in the first round. However, things did not go as well when they met their dreaded foes, the New York Yankees in the next round. The Yankees were beating the Red Sox easily, leading the series 3-0 and leading 4-3 in game four heading into the ninth inning. By all means the series should have been over and the Yankees should have been in the World Series. However, somebody forgot to tell the Red Sox to roll over and die. The Red Sox proceeded to rally in the ninth to tie the game and then won it in the twelfth inning. Boston won the next three games to complete the greatest comeback in sports history, winning four games in a row and shocking the sports world by knocking off the Yankees. The Red Sox then cruised into the World Series and easily handled the Cardinals, sweeping them four games straight. The Red Sox ended the Curse of the Bambino, born Dec. 26, 1919, and completed a season for the sports ages.

2. NHL stands for No Hockey League

While there was much rejoice in Boston there was a great deal of mourning going on across the hockey world. The Stanley Cup was over and all the partying in Tampa and ceased, what came next was the inevitable, something the NHL had been preparing for almost two years. On September 15th 2004, the NHL commissioner stated what everybody expected, the NHL and the players union (NHLPA) could not come to an agreement over a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The result of this has been a lockout which has stretched into the New Year and will by all means eliminate the 2004-2005 season. Hockey fans have been starved for a while now and they will continue to be as there is no end in sight to this lockout.

3. Steroids step to the forefront of the sporting world.

Barry Bonds and Marion Jones are icons in their respective sports, Bonds is closing in on the all time homerun record and Jones has won multiple track and field gold medals at the Olympics. However, a shadow was cast over them this year, when Victor Conte of Balco, a sports nutrition company, came forward and said outright that he had seen Jones take steroids before the Olympics. Jones has vehemently denied these claims but Conte sticks by his word, casting great doubt onto Jones' accomplishments. While Conte did not say Bonds took steroids it has become obvious that Bonds is not the same player he was just a few years ago. Bonds is much larger, and he continues to put up numbers at an age when many are hanging it up. When Bonds' trainer was arrested for handling steroids, the spotlight was put on Bonds and the debate raged on whether or not he has used them. This story has put a black eye on the sports world and many hope it will disappear in 2005.

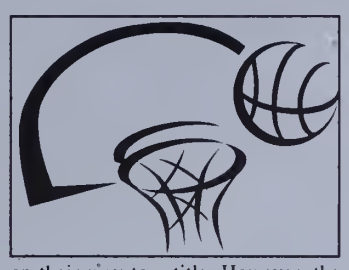
4. Patriots winning second Super Bowl in three years and breaking record for most consecutive wins.

What a year for Boston, the Red

Sox finally win the title and the Patriots just keep on winning. The New England Patriots won twelve straight games to end the 2003-2004 regular season and then proceeded to defeat the Carolina Panthers in the Super Bowl to claim their second title in three years. The Pats had won fifteen games in a row heading into the 2004-2005 season and they did not stop their winning ways. The Pats won their first six games of the season before losing at Pittsburgh, ending their NFL record 21 game winning streak. In today's NFL, where parody is the norm, a team like New England dominating the league is almost unthinkable, but they were able to make it happen with a great defense and an unshakable quarterback in Tom Brady. The Pats have ended the season at 14-2 and are looking to win their third title in four years, which would make them an NFL dynasty.

5. L.A Lakers upset by Detroit Pistons and the team collapses in on itself.

Forget Days of our Lives and General Hospital, the real soap opera was in Los Angeles with the Lakers. Almost everybody believed when the Lakers got Karl Malone and Gary Peyton to go along with Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal, they were well



on their way to a title. However, the honeymoon ended very quickly, as injuries and in fighting with the team caused many problems. When the playoffs hit the Lakers were in some trouble but they were able to put aside their differences and make it to the title game against the Detroit Pistons, in what many considered to be a mismatch. The Lakers were supposed to walk in and destroy the Pistons but the complete opposite happened. The Pistons dismantled the Lakers, winning the series in five games. This marked the end of the Lakers reign on top, as the Lakers were stripped down to the liking of their star, Kobe. Massive changes were made, as Malone was injured during the off season and as not returned to the league. Peyton was traded along with Rick Fox to Boston and the biggest move of all was the trading of Shaq to Miami. This left Kobe with a team to himself and a new coach as Phil Jackson retired, replaced by Rudy Tomjohnovic. The soap opera continues in L.A. as the rivalry between Kobe and Shaq rages on across the country, but as it stands now, the Lakers Dynasty is over.

6. Peyton Manning breaks record for most TD passes in one season.

It was the biggest individual accomplishment of the year, a touchdown record that was supposed to be unbreakable was broken by Peyton Manning. Dan Marino's record of forty-eight touchdown passes had stood for almost two decades before Manning took aim at it. Manning utilized all of his weapons during the course of the season to reach forty-nine touchdowns. Wide receivers Reggie Wayne, Marvin Harrison and Brandon Stokley combined to catch thirty-five touchdowns, whilst tight ends Marcus Pollard and Dallas Clark caught eleven and running back Dominack Rhoades caught three. Manning also threw for 4551 yards and he also broke the record for highest QB rating ever with 121.4. This is arguably the greatest season for a quarterback in NFL history.

7. Sex in Sports

Sex took center stage in sports in 2004 through many outlets. Whether it was at the Super Bowl with Janet Jackson and "Nipple gate" or on Monday Night Football with Nicolette Sheridan jumping into Terrell Owens' arms naked, sex was all over the sports world. In tennis, sex sold Anna Kournikova and now it is selling Maria Sharapova as the face of Women's Tennis. Sharapova is being marketed as a sex symbol for the Women's league, while she is only seventeen years old. Sex is getting out of hand in the sports world and something has to happen in 2005 to curb this mix of sex and sports.

8. Canada proves they are the best once again

While the NHL was in lockout,

Canada did have a fix of hockey for a short time at the World Cup. The World Cup proved once again why Canada is still the center of the hockey universe, as the Canadians mopped the floor with the competition, disposing of the Czech Republic and Finland on their way to capturing the title. If there was any doubt who the best in hockey was, there was not any doubt after the World Cup, it is Canada.

From the horses' mouth: best quotes and quips from the sports world in 2004

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGH

If a coach takes his team to the Finals four of the next five years, I'll kiss his feet on Fear Factor -- with cheese on it.

-- Shaquille O'Neal, questioning the Lakers' decision to let coach Phil Jackson go

I'm like toilet paper, toothpaste and certain amenities -- I'm proven to be good.

-- Shaquille O'Neal, when asked about his continued effectiveness at age 32

What can I say? I just tip my hat and call the Yankees my daddy.

-- Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez after blowing an eighth-inning lead in a loss to New York

Do you want to go work with some little young kid who's just out of college?

-- Steelers guard Alan Faneca on rookie QB Ben Roethlisberger's first start

I just picked up my wheelchair and pushed myself to the end zone.

-- Arizona's 35-year-old Emmitt Smith on his TD run in the Cardinals' 34-10 win over the Saints

I'm not sure I can think of any scenario more enjoyable than making 55,000 people from New York shut up.

-- Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling, fanning the flames in the playoff series against the Yankees

I hope the guy sells two million books because I'll probably buy 100,000 copies and pass them out for free.

-- Shaquille O'Neal on ex-Lakers coach Phil Jackson's new book, which is critical of Kobe Bryant.

We got Babe Ruth's ghost a hooker and now everything's cool.

-- Curt Schilling, reading off the No. 1 secret of the Red Sox comeback on David Letterman's Top 10 list.

You could say that it was pretty close to pornographic.

-- Bears coach Lovie Smith on ABC's racy Desperate Housewives lead-in skit on Monday Night Football.

This is a Hollywood soap opera, and I'm not going to be a star in another Bryant soap opera.

-- Former Lakers forward Karl Malone, on accusations by Kobe Bryant that Malone hit on Bryant's wife, Vanessa

We have a couple of guys who we literally picked up off the street.

-- Indiana coach Rick Carlisle on his suspension- and injury-riddled Pacers, who put only eight players in uniform after the infamous brawl with Pistons fans

Don't even put me and dude in the same sentence with each other.

-- Kobe Byrant's response to a reporter asking him about Seattle guard Ray Allen's comment about the Lakers without Shaq

I had something really, really super sexy, but they wouldn't let me wear it.

-- Serena Williams on the Wimbledon fashion police, adding more fuel to the fire about the sex in sports debate

I threw the kitchen sink at him, but he went to the bathroom and got a tnb.

-- Andy Roddick on Roger Federer after Federer beat Roddick in four sets in the Wimbledon final, claiming victory against Roddick again

I wouldn't see him ordering a beer anytime soon. He's over there with the champagne and caviar and the strawberries.

-- Fox broadcaster (and ex-NFLer) Tony Siragusa on Lions QB Joey Harrington

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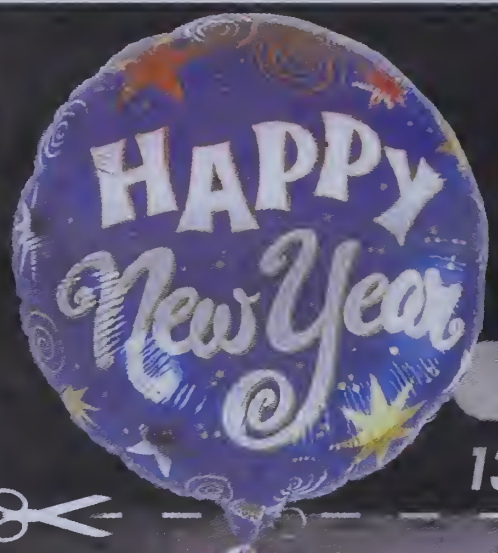

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